



BARRY NEEDLEMAN
Direct Dial: 603.230.4407
Email: barry.needleman@mclane.com
Admitted in NH, MA and ME
11 South Main Street, Suite 500
Concord, NH 03301
T 603.226.0400
F 603.230.4448

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 27, 2016

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee – Docket No. 2015-04
Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
("Eversource") for a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Construction of a New
115 kV Transmission Line from Madbury Substation to Portsmouth Substation**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The Applicants received a request from Counsel for the Site Evaluation Committee to clarify what exactly occurred at the pre-filing public information sessions that were held in the Towns of Durham and Newington for the Seacoast Reliability Project ("SRP" or the "Project"). This letter expands upon what transpired at the pre-filing public information sessions held in April and June 2015 for the Project.

PSNH first held a public information session in Durham, New Hampshire for Strafford County on April 22, 2015 at which time Judge Kathleen Maguire presided over the session. PSNH gave a video presentation on the Project, took written questions, and received both oral and written comments on the Project. The entire presentation and comment period was transcribed. See Appendix 25. Also, before the formal public information session began, PSNH held an open house where individuals from the public were given the opportunity to meet with Project representatives to discuss the Project and ask questions. See Appendix 25, Durham Public Information Session Transcript at 5 ("I believe there were 35 people here, experts from Eversource, here to answer your questions."). PSNH also received both written comments and questions; PSNH responded to written questions received in writing.

At the Durham pre-filing public information session, members of the community expressed frustration that PSNH did not answer questions directly. Therefore, at the second public information session, held in Newington for Rockingham County on April 23, 2014, PSNH altered the format of the session to include a question and answer session. The format for the public information session remained the same, but before the public comment period began, Judge Maguire read aloud written questions from the public. See Appendix 25, Newington Public Information Session Transcript at 6 ("Based on the feedback from last night's session in

Durham, about the inability of the public to ask questions and get answers in a group setting, the Project Team has carved out an additional 30 minutes tonight to respond to some of the key questions asked last night, questions that you may be thinking about yourselves.”). Members of the SRP team responded in-kind to each question. The question and answer portion of the public information session was held-off the record. See Appendix 25, Newington Public Information Session Transcript at 10.

Also, at this session, PSNH received both written comments and questions. Several of the questions were not answered due to time constraints and were responded to in writing. See Appendix 25, Newington Public Information Session Transcript at 6–7 (“Additionally, you were all provided with a sheet where you could write down—where you can write down your own question. A member of the Project Team will respond to as many questions as time allows before the official on-the-record public information session begins. Any written questions not answered tonight will be answered by writing to you individually, if you include your name and address on the form.”).

Following these sessions in Durham and Newington, the Town of Durham requested that PSNH return for a second information session where members from the communities of Madbury and Durham could ask questions. PSNH obliged and on June 22, PSNH returned to Durham for another session where the public asked questions. The Town posted announcements for the additional meeting to the Town’s website, sent multiple announcements in the Town Administrator’s widely circulated Friday Update,¹ and was announced in a Foster’s Daily Democrat article.² The session was also video recorded by a local public access television.³ The Applicant also held two additional public information sessions for the Town of Newington and the Newington Board of Selectmen on July 23, 2015 and September 3, 2015.

Please contact me directly should you have any questions.

¹ See <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/fridayupdate/friday-updates-june-5-2015> (“At the Town’s request, Eversource representatives will return to Durham to answer questions from members of the public concerning the Eversource Seacoast Reliability Project. The session will be held Monday, June 22, 2015 at 7 PM in the Town Council chambers at the Durham Town Hall. The session will be televised live. Eversource will provide an overview of the project followed by Q&A.”); <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/fridayupdate/friday-updates-june-12-2015> (same); <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/fridayupdate/friday-updates-june-19-2015> (“At the Town’s request, Eversource representatives will return to Durham to provide a presentation and answer questions from members of the public concerning the Eversource Seacoast Reliability Project.”).

² See Fosters Daily Democrat, Eversource Modifies Transmission Line Project, June 19. 2015 (“Eversource representatives will discuss the new plans in Durham on Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. in the Town Council chambers at the Durham Town Hall, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session.”).

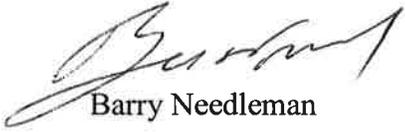
³ For a copy of the video recording from the Durham Question and Answer Session, please visit <https://dcat22.viebit.com/#e334c9c9fcc0dc1efcd34ad18fbd8844f>

SRP – Public Information Sessions

May 27, 2016

Page 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Needleman", written in a cursive style.

Barry Needleman

BN:amd

cc: Distribution List